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CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: A CRITICAL STUDY OF SALIL DESAI'S WORKS

SHORT SYNOPSIS

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by

Jitender Singh

19/PHD/121

Under the supervision of

Dr Tripti Tyagi

Assistant Professor, Department of English, FMeH

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FACULTY OF MEDIA STUDIES AND HUMANITIES

MANAV RACHNA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH & STUDIES

SECTOR-43, SURAJKUND –DELHI ROAD, FARIDABAD – 121001

Certificate

I hereby declare that the short synopsis *Crime and Punishment: A Critical Study of Salil Desai's Works* being submitted in the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English under the faculty of English of Manav Rachna International Institute of Research & Studies, Faridabad during the academic year 2019-2020.

It is a bonafide record of original work carried out under the supervision of Dr Tripti Tyagi and has not been submitted in full or part to any other university or institute for a degree or diploma.

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ABSTRACT

Crime is a fundamentally punishable act but unfortunately, that does not stop even then. It is a censure to society but unfortunately, it does not disappear.

No one is born a criminal but the conditions in which the man survives force him to commit a crime. No one learns to commit a crime in his infanthood but he develops a tendency to harm others, hurt, and even kill when he grows in an affected condition. He does it even knowing that it will affect one's life including his own life will not be spared by the judiciary.

Why do people commit crimes? After all, what is the motive of the people behind committing the crime? There are many forms of crimes like committing robbery, rape, murder, loots, snatching away someone's judicial etc. But the condition in which crime takes place is a question –how? What ultimately be the origin of the crime? We read about crime in daily newspapers and media and it makes us wonder how people can do this.

There may have been several issues that allow men to commit heinous acts that also bring loss to their growth as individuals. Some suffer serious problems that persuade them to commit a crime but most of the criminals or men who commit wrong or illegal practices intend to trouble others and are not happy with the growth of others.

This research dwells in those areas that give rise to the causes of the crimes. It throws light on the social, personal, and psychological factors that escalate crimes in society. The research seeks assistance through reading detective and crime fiction. Detective or crime fiction can inform the readers about the ill psychological behaviors of few men or women living in the same society who are differently wiser and active in committing crimes.

Crime fiction is to detect the crime by paying full attention to all the aspects related to criminology. It studies the psychological illness of men that lead them towards the path of crimes. There is also an existence of popular detectives who go through the depth of the crime and find some clues related to the criminals. And at last, the mazes become solved. But the journey of solving the mystery is always an adventure in crime fiction. Similarly, how to delegate the punishment is also a question to analyse in the works of Salil Desai. Punishment to those criminals who themselves are victims of nature brings aquestion to the interrogating teams and it makes the reading interesting to watch how thesystem works.

This research investigates the criminal minds and the society that is gripped in such and how this curb is also looked at. It reads detective and crime fiction that are also signifying parts of literature and that expose human weaknesses as human nature and that too is an elementary study in literature.

Keywords: -*Salil Desai, Society, Crime, Detective, Punishment*

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INTRODUCTION

Literature means art. We get pleasure from reading literature and can identify the philosophyof life through analyzing it. Literature preaches us what are true and false paths in life. It acknowledges society about what lies as goodness and evil since its evolution. Life has been a conjugation of happiness as well as struggle. It can never be aloof and that is well taught through literature.

Many problems and awkward situations provoke us to do wrong. However, some people suffer from no despair; even then they commit crimes because of their poor psychology.

Crime has increased so much that it can't be ignored. The officers are doing their jobs, laws are strict, yet crime does not stop. Today all types of technologies are available, like computers, lasers, printings, scanning, ultra-safety measures, CCTV cameras, yet crime does not decrease. There are many reasons due to which crimes happen like selfish desires, to gain more power, to take revenge, to destruct someone's reputation from showing superiority or to prove patriarchy, due to intended passions, jealousy to someone, to isolate living standard, to politicize defectors, and to dominate someone, tension, financial problems, premarital issues, marital problems and much more.

Salil Desai and His Works

Salil Desai is an author, columnist as well as a filmmaker. His stories have been published inmany magazines. An interesting part of his work is that his novels are turned into web series now. Inspector Saralkar and PSI Motkar are two famous characters cum detectives who solve criminal activities and these two characters are like Hercule Poirot who exist in almost all the novels of Salil Desai.

Salil Desai is one of the four international authors worldwide selected for HALD international Writers' Residency in Denmark, hosted by the Danish Centre for Writers andTranslators in June 2016. The most interesting facts that his three-novel named *Killing Ashish Karve*, *The Murder of Sonia Raikkonen*, *3 And A Half Murder* and *Murder Milestone* have been selected for the web series by the Time Studio Originals

Today many writers expose the feeble psychology of a few unfortunate men or women who cannot identify the difference between what is morally right or wrong. He is one of those writers who acknowledge society through his works, about the mischief and nefarious activities that are illegal and punishable. His works narrate the murder attempts through murdering, rape, plundering and kidnapping etc. Almost all the novels written by him are the best depiction of the world that is gripped in unlawful and malfeasance activities. Stories of his novels are set in Pune and are based on real incidents held in Pune only.

The Body in the Back Seat (2011) is acclaimed as the best murder mystery by an Indian author so far. The senior inspector Saralkar and PSI Motkar find a dead body on the last seat of a car. The case seems suicide but through his investigation, the inspector solves the murder mystery.

Lost Libido and Other Gulf Fiction (2012) is written by Salil Desai. There are many short stories inside it. Every story has an unexpected ending. Some have got suddenly twisted ends. All the stories are really interesting.

Murder on a Side Street (2012) is written by Salil Desai. It is also a mystery murder story of Sandeep's abusive boss. There are six friends named Sandeep (Sandy), Divya, Kapil (Kaps), Share, Jerry, and Aarushi. They have just finished college. Now Sandy is selected for a job. Everything is good but his boss Mr Ravinder Wadhwa accuses him a lot. Sandy is very tense about this. He tells his friends about this matter. One day his boss is found dead and all the proof goes against sandy. Now all the friends detect all the mystery and try to prove Sandy's innocence.

Killing Ashish Karve (2014) is Salil Desai's first novel. The body in the back seat is discovered. A name is also scripted in-car --Killing Ashish Karve. The senior inspector Saralkar and PSI Motkar play great roles to solve this murder mystery of Ashish.

The Murder of Sonia Raikkonen (2015) is written by Salil Desai. In this story, a Finnish girl named Sonia is found dead in a garden in Pune. A white sandal was found near her. That evening in another part of the city on a wooded hillside, an old man is also found dead. But the factual thing is that another white sandal is found near the old man's corpse also. The senior inspector Saralkar and PSI Motkar solve the mystery in the end and find there is only a murderer who avenges victims and kills them in anger.

3 And A Half Murder (2017) is written by Salil Desai. At the start of its story, a woman's dead body is found on the bed and a man is found hanged. It seems a suicide cum murder by the man to his unfaithful wife. It is about an illicit relationship that occurs between human beings and that enforce one to commit murders. It's a story of not being able to trust each other. Man hangs his wife and also suicide himself Once again, the same and professional senior inspector Saralkar and the PSI solve the murder mystery at the end of the story.

The Sane Psychopath (2018) describes the real incident of Pune. This is the story of Shankar Lande, driver of a state transport bus who goes on a bone-chilling hour-long rampage on the street of Pune – killing 10, maiming 70 and damaging over 100 vehicles, before he is captured. There is idealistic lawyer Varun Gupte, a Punekar who still decides to defend Lande. It is a real incident that happens in Pune. Shankar Lande is the central figure of this story who suddenly changes into a criminal. Many things together forced him into a person who commits atrocities.

Shankar Lande also got caught in similar frustrations and went on to commit crimes. "It is a fictional exploration of a frightening murderous phenomenon of our times".

Murder Milestone (2020) is written by Salil Desai. There is a serial killer Dharmesh Solanki, Senior inspector and PSI Motkar reopen a case that occurred sixteen years before. They solve a murder mystery of an ex- constable. Thinker Views Editor comments "The book is writtenas a police procedural and it sticks to its genre. The way Salil introduces us to the characters is nice. Also, the human attributes of the police officers are shown quite effectively".

Salil Desai is a renowned author who details the murder mysteries based in the city Pune. Through his novels, he expects to learn about the crimes. He says "as a writer I see myselfas a product of all the books I have read right from my childhood to my middle age. Somebit of 'me' finds its way into almost every major character I have created in my books sofar" (Latest News & Updates at Daily News & Analysis DNA India January 13, 2015. Retrieved 3 January 2017).

All the novels are mystery murders of Salil Desai. He creates a historical character of hisnovels named Inspector Saralkar and PSI Motkar to solve the mysterious murders. Inspector Saralkar becomes extremely popular among readers. Inspector Saralkar books are to be adopted as WEB SERIES by Time Studio Originals. Shikha Sabharwal,publishing Director, Fingerprint! Publishing is jubilant too. "This is a first for us – word to screen. Salil has created a cracker of a mystery series and who better to take it to the next level than Times Studio Origin". Talking about this acquisition, Pretti Singh, ContentHead, Times Studio Originals says "We are excited to develop the inspector Saralkar series into a riveting show and are delighted to partner with Fingerprint! On this journey, we have an interesting line-up of content majorly focused on book adaptation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Detective Fiction and the Problem of Knowledge **- Antoine Duchene (2018)**

In this book, the author describes the term "metacognition". This term was coined by John Flavell. It refers to "thinking about thinking" learning how to learn. This book traditionally discloses unreadable mysteries. It offers a multiplicity of motifs in the overwhelming presence of chance, the unfulfilled quest for knowledge. It describes a wide array of epistemological and ontological uncertainties.

Crime Fiction as World Literature - Louise Nilson, David Damrosch and Theo Dhaen (2017)
This book explains crime at a global level. Twenty critics discuss crime fiction. All areproven crime fiction is one of the most widespread genres in literature.

Crime Fiction- John Scaggs (2005)

In this book, the author describes that crime fiction is a hugely popular literary genre. He explains many examples of crime from others novels, short- stories, tv-series and films. He establishes the plot of his stories from the social and historical surface. It shows that itis very important to guide the generation for the future.

The Crime Fiction Handbook- Peter Messent (2012)

It presents the origin of the crime fiction genre based on American, British, and Scandinavian. It encompasses a close analysis of the key texts in the crime fiction belief. It's certainly valuable for everyone.

Teaching Crime Fiction - Charlotte Beyer (2018)

This book tells the original essays on crime fiction written by experts of international scholars. In it, there are many methods for teaching students to formulate their critical viewpoint as crime fiction critics, postcolonialism, feminism, crime and film and further information about this.

Murder 101: Essays on the Teaching of Detective Fiction-Edward J. Rielly (2018) Through this, we come to know how we can apply our insight into the genre of detective fiction. There are discussion parts on the genre of crime fiction. It's truly significant toscholars of crime fiction.

Criminology; Theories, Patterns & Typologies- Larry J Siegel (2012)

Numerous writers write many books on Crime. One of them, Larry J Segal writes a book on crime fiction i.e., Criminology; Theories, Pattern & Typologies'. In this, he explains that criminology is the science of criminal behaviour. He has set out six major theories on why people commit crimes. Rational Choice Theory, Biosocial theory, Psychology Trait Theory, Neutralization Theory, Hirschi's Social Bond Theory, Latent Trait Theory.

DESCRIPTION OF BROAD AREA

The broad area of this research is to explore various socio-economic and political and personal reasons behind one's indulgence in criminal activity. It dwells in a unique area that researchers often do not take, as they consider comedy, romance and tragedy as best outsource to connecting literature with society. This research does not gather the lineages rather it works on a unique scope in the literature that interrogates identifying the causes that allow a mindset that one falls to committing a crime. Thriller is a serious and major component of literature. It cannot be discarded as it specifies why society is grim with crimes even when laws are strict, highly advanced, and equips technological safeguards. Even then, why do crimes not see an end and people live with peace? It is a question that my thesis erupts and analyses the reasons through reading thrillers that work aim fully to expose the facets who are sick and sane and ruin the society.

This work examines Salil Desai's works and through his multiple textual thrills, it elaborates upon the societal development and flaws that persist in society. A psychoanalytical reading and an age are read in this work to generate a hypothesis that causal behavior leads to crime.

CHAPTERIZATION

This research work is divided into the following tentative chapters:-

Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Analyzing Crime Fiction from 2011-2015
Chapter 3	Short-Stories Depicting Crime in 2017
Chapter 4	Analyzing Crime Fiction from 2018-2020
Chapter 5	Conclusion

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The proposed research is designed to study the aspects of crime and punishment in crime fiction taken for research work. The objectives of the proposed research are as follows:-

1. To observe the age and region in which the stories are set to know the socio-political concerns affecting the time.

2. To examine the social, economic and psychological factors that affect one's life to the extent that he becomes a criminal.

3. To prove that crime fiction has significant participation as other narratives in the literary world and to be taken as an equal component sharing the social concerns effectively.

4. To perceive gendered, notions, classes, sects, affluence and other discriminatory attitudes that allow crime to take place.

PROPOSED OUTCOME OF THE RESEARCH

The proposed outcomes of the research work are mentioned below: -

1. The research will attempt to prove a significant emergence of crime fiction, especially in India that should be equally celebrated as a genre of the literature.
2. The study will attempt to discuss techniques and literary devices that stylize detective fictionas uniquely a part of literature.
3. The study will try to establish that unusual suppression, greed for money, frustrations and unnecessary fuss are the causes to commit crime. If the problems are solvedon time, then one can avoid indulging in crime
4. The study will make us aware of the reasons behind the crimes taking place and we can become more alert in its vigilance
5. The study will help us to understand that an intention to commit a crime can be avoided by choosing the right solution or treatment at the right time.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To satisfy the objectives of the study, qualitative and research will be held. It will providea complete account and analysis of a research subject, without restricting the scope of theresearch and the nature of participants' responses. A series of secondary data such as articles, books, and journals will be used to answer the research questions. Ex posto research will be undertaken to find strategies to overcome the research problem.

Potential approaches will be broadly categorized as textual, sociological or psychological. Exploratory research will be conducted which intends to establish priorities and improve the final research design. Exploratory research will help determine the best research design for data.

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Registration Number: 19/PHD/121

Supervisor: Dr. Tripti Tyagi
Department: English (FMeH)

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ABSTRACT

Crime is a fundamentally punishable act but unfortunately, that does not stop even then. It is a censure to society but unfortunately, it does not disappear.

No one is born a criminal but the conditions in which the man survives force him to commit a crime. No one learns to commita crime in his infanthood but he develops a tendency to harm others, hurt, and even kill when he grows in an affected condition. He does it even knowing that it will affect one's life including his own life will not be spared by the judiciary.

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